CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2016:

Vice President Richard West opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 19 members present. He invited **Simon Richards** to show his display of the **British West Indies.**

The first half of the evening concerned postal history from 1663 to 1863 commencing with a letter sent from London following the Great Fire, followed by a range of letters to various islands in the archipelago through to 1864. Included were a series of hand stamps of many islands together with marks denoting postage rates and routes including British marks for the larger islands. Also included were marks from the DWI Packet service and other nation's carriers plus forwarding agents marks for countries not in the UPU, also pre-payment indicators. Examples of postage stamps from the islands following 1850 included stamps from inter-island mail, British stamps and locally printed stamps after 1860.

The second half of the evening was a wide range of stamps from 1860. British stamps included over prints and colour changes to comply with UPU rules, plus local issues from Dominica from 1902. Other material included colour trials, proofs, design changes to suit monarch changes, watermark variations, WW1 stamps with war tax overprints to pay for the islands' contingent of troops in the European campaign. Finally, there were three frames of exhibits of Dominican mail of considerable variety and interest.

This was a most entertaining and interesting evening for members enhanced by Simon's lucid explanations. Following a Vote of Thanks by the Vice President the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

07.03.2016
Ref: CroyPhilSocNotes23.02.16.docx
Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary2015-16, Croydon Philatelic Society.